

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A computer implemented method for establishing a run-time data area comprising:
 - relocating a firmware module from a read-only memory location to a writeable memory location during a system boot-up operation;
 - reserving a portion of said writeable memory location comprising a memory allocation for said firmware module and an additional memory allocation; and
 - designating said additional memory allocation as said run-time data area, wherein said run-time data area is created without requiring prior knowledge of system resource allocation.
2. (original) The computer implemented method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said relocating further comprises:
 - receiving a system call for a system firmware feature; and
 - returning a response to said system call requesting said memory allocation for said firmware module, said additional memory allocation, and a memory allocation for said system firmware feature.
3. (original) The computer implemented method as recited in Claim 2 further comprising:
 - determining the size of said system firmware feature;
 - determining the size of said firmware module; and
 - determining the size of said run-time data area.
4. (original) The computer implemented method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said system firmware feature comprises a processor abstraction layer.

5. (original) The computer implemented method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said firmware module operates in a real mode.
6. (original) The computer implemented method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said firmware module operates in a virtual mode.
7. (original) The computer implemented method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said firmware module is dynamically operable in a real mode and a virtual mode.
8. (original) A method for creating a system independent run-time data storage area comprising:
- intercepting a system call for determining the size of a system firmware feature during a system boot-up operation;
 - returning a response to said system call conveying a request for a portion of a writeable memory location; and
 - reserving a portion of said writeable memory location, wherein a memory allocation is designated as said run-time data area, wherein said run-time data area is created without requiring prior knowledge of system resource allocation.
9. (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 further comprising:
- utilizing a firmware module resident upon a read-only memory location to perform said intercepting.
10. (original) The method as recited in Claim 9 further comprising:
- relocating said system firmware feature and said firmware module from said read-only memory location to said writeable memory location.
11. (original) The method as recited in Claim 10 wherein said run-time data area comprises a sub-component of said firmware module.

12. (original) The method as recited in Claim 10 wherein said run-time data area is separate from said firmware module and said system firmware feature.
13. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said system boot-up operation is performed by ~~an Intel Itanium®~~ a processor.
14. (original) The method as recited in Claim 13 wherein said system firmware feature comprises a processor abstraction layer.
15. (original) The as recited in Claim 9 wherein said firmware module operates in a real mode.
16. (original) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said firmware module operates in a virtual mode.
17. (original) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said firmware module is dynamically operable in a real mode and a virtual mode.
18. (original) A method for creating a run-time data area comprising:
 receiving a system call for relocating a system firmware feature from a read-only memory location to a writeable memory location during a system boot-up operation;
 allocating a first portion of said writeable memory location for said system firmware feature; and
 allocating an additional portion of said writeable memory location and designating said additional memory allocation as said run-time data area, wherein said run-time data area is created without requiring prior knowledge of system resource allocation.
19. (original) The method as recited in Claim 18 wherein said system firmware feature comprises a processor abstraction layer.

20. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 18 further comprising:
using a firmware module to perform said ~~interecepting~~ receiving.
21. (original) The method as recited in Claim 20 further comprising:
allocating a third portion of said writeable memory location to said firmware module.
22. (original) The method as recited in Claim 20 further comprising:
allocating said additional portion of said writeable memory location to said firmware module; and
designating a portion of said firmware module as said run-time data area.
23. (original) The method as recited in Claim 20 wherein said firmware module operates in a real mode.
24. (original) The computer implemented method as recited in Claim 20 wherein said firmware module operates in a virtual mode.
25. (original) The computer implemented method as recited in Claim 20 wherein said firmware module is dynamically operable in a real mode and a virtual mode.